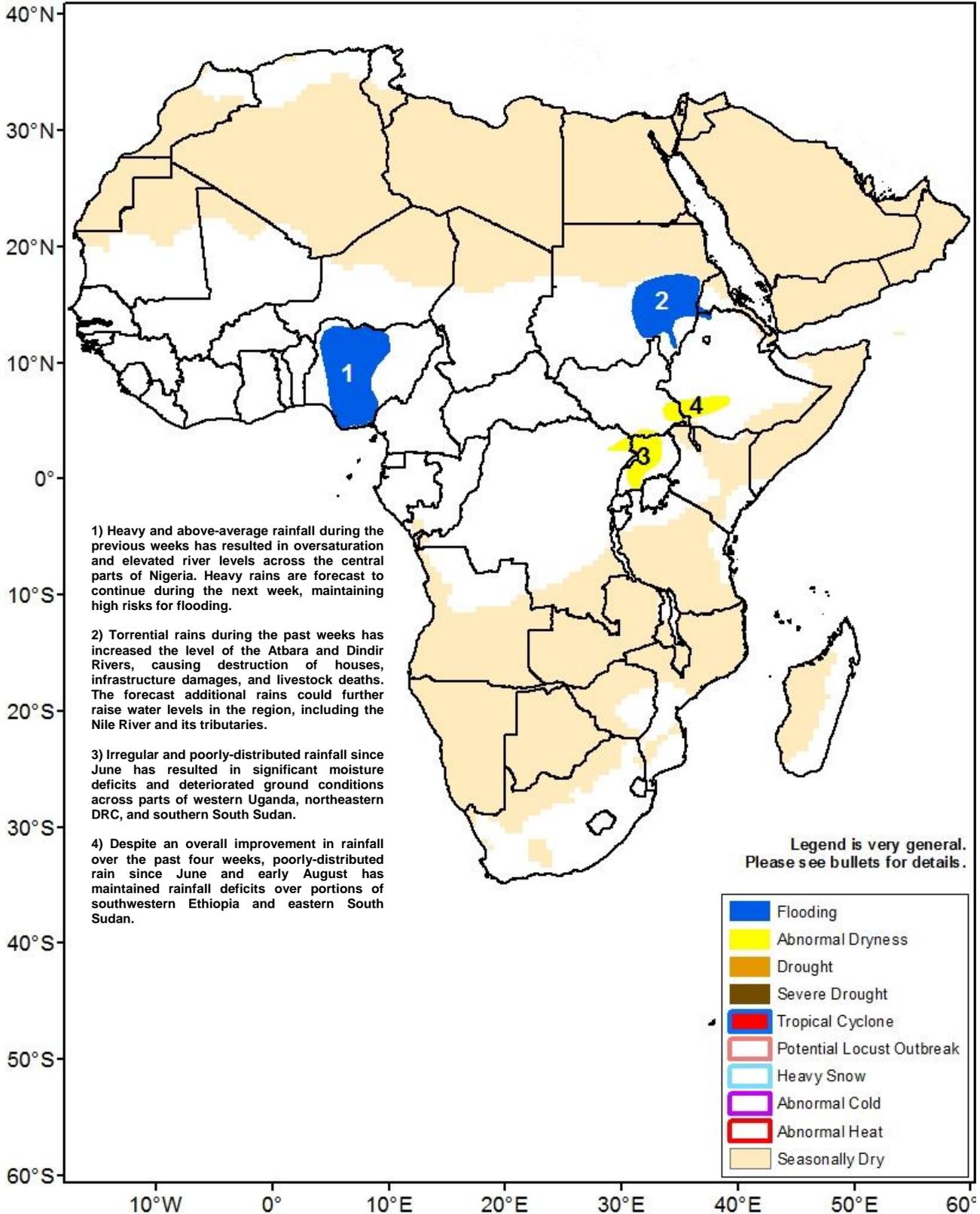




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 13 – 19, 2018

- The potential for flooding remains high over parts of Nigeria as heavy rainfall is expected to continue.
 - Abnormal dryness has remained in parts of Uganda and Ethiopia due to a poor rain distribution.



1) Heavy and above-average rainfall during the previous weeks has resulted in oversaturation and elevated river levels across the central parts of Nigeria. Heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week, maintaining high risks for flooding.

2) Torrential rains during the past weeks has increased the level of the Atbara and Dindir Rivers, causing destruction of houses, infrastructure damages, and livestock deaths. The forecast additional rains could further raise water levels in the region, including the Nile River and its tributaries.

3) Irregular and poorly-distributed rainfall since June has resulted in significant moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions across parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan.

4) Despite an overall improvement in rainfall over the past four weeks, poorly-distributed rain since June and early August has maintained rainfall deficits over portions of southwestern Ethiopia and eastern South Sudan.

Consistent, heavy rainfall triggered floods in West Africa.

During the past observation period, widespread heavy rainfall prevailed across West Africa. While heavy downpours continued over the far western portions of western and southern Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, and western Liberia, torrential rainfall also was received farther east over eastern Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Niger, and Nigeria (**Figure 1**). In Nigeria, flooding, destruction of homes, and fatalities were reported over many States of the country, including the Niger, Kano, and Katsina. Elsewhere, light to locally moderate rainfall was recorded as far north as south-central Mauritania, central Mali, and west-central Niger. The continued favorable rainfall distribution over the past several weeks has maintained positive moisture conditions for agricultural and pastoral activities throughout much of the region.

Due to wetter than average climate over the recent weeks, average to above-average vegetation conditions were observed over much of West Africa, except northern Senegal and southern Mauritania, which experienced a delayed start of the seasonal rainfall, according to the recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomaly. Moreover, the Intertropical Front, main rain-bearing system, has remained abnormally north of the climatological average since mid-June, bringing satisfactory soil moisture throughout the region.

During the next outlook period, copious amounts of rainfall are again expected across West Africa, with heavy downpours over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. Farther east, locally heavy rainfall is expected over the central and southeastern portions of Nigeria. In Nigeria, local authorities in the Kogi State have warned on the potential for the overflowing of the Niger River as water levels have already exceeded normal levels.

Dryness weakened but persisted in parts of east Africa.

During the past week, heavy and above-average rainfall returned over east Africa, with heavy downpours over eastern Sudan, southern Eritrea, and northwestern Ethiopia. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was recorded over western Sudan and western South Sudan. Conversely, limited, with little to light rainfall was registered over eastern South Sudan and Uganda. Over the past thirty-days, rainfall anomalies indicated wetter than average conditions, with surpluses between 50-200 mm, over the northern portions of east Africa, including central and eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia, but drier than average conditions, with small to moderate deficits farther south over southwestern Ethiopia, southeastern South Sudan, and local areas of Uganda (**Figure 2**). The persisting negative anomalies were attributed to an uneven rainfall distribution during the past month despite some improved rainfall over some areas. Additional moisture is needed to eliminate deficits and ensure adequate conditions for cropping activities.

Based on recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomaly, above-average vegetation conditions were observed in southern and eastern Sudan and Eritrea; near-average to above-average conditions across much of Ethiopia and South Sudan; and below-average conditions over local areas of southeastern South Sudan and northwestern Uganda.

During the next outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of heavy rainfall over western Ethiopia, which may further elevate River level and trigger flooding along downstream areas of eastern Sudan. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall is expected over western Yemen, the Somaliland of northern Somalia, southwestern Sudan, and western South Sudan. In contrast, little to light rain is forecast over eastern South Sudan and northern Uganda.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

